

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 AID-05 CIAE-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 /064 W

-----251335Z 037123 /46

R 251131Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9380

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, GB, SA, TC, KU

SUBJ: FINANCING PROJECTS IN GABON

REF: STATE 118190

1. ACCORDING TO LOCAL BANKING SOURCE, GOG MINTRANSPORT RAWIRI TOOK WITH HIM ON HIS MIDDLE EAST TRIP GENERAL STATEMENT OF PROJECT COMPRISING EXTENSION TO OWENDO PORT AND CONSTRUCTION OF MINERAL PORT AT SANTA CLARA AND NECES-ARY RAIL LINK. THIS PRESUMABLY WAS PROJECT FOR WHICH HE WAS SEEKING ARAB FUNDING REPORTED REFTEL.

2. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT GABONESE HAVE BEEN TRYING FOR SEVERAL YEARSTO ATTRACT ARAB CAPITAL FOR THEIR DEVELOP-MENT PROGRAM, THUS FAR WITHOUT VISIBLE SUCCESS. SEVERAL LOCAL BANKERS SHARE OUR OPINION THAT GABONESE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PRESENT PRETTY GOOD CASE, COMBINING ATTRACTIONS OF MODERATE, FREE ENTERPRISE REGIME (WHICH SHOULD APPEAL TO MORE CONSERVATIVE ARAB STATES) WITH REASONABLE PROSPECT OF REPAYMENT OF LOANS FROM GABONESE PETROLEUM

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AND MINERAL REVENUES. NEVERTHELESS,NONE OF OUR SOURCES HAS SEEN ANY RECENT INDICATION THAT ARAB FUNDS ARE LIKELY TO FLOW IN NEAR FUTURE DESPITE GOG EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION.STEIGMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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